NOVEMBER 2026

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ARIZONA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION
Creative Water Media



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 66 Years (1960–2026)

Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. As you all know November is the last membership meeting of this year. If you have not collected your 65-yr anniversary books, please contact me and arrange a pickup time and place. 10 members have not picked up their books to date. I bring the books to the membership meetings so it's a good reason for you to attend. I have had no one contact me to run for board positions in this year's elections for board members so the board will be voted in by acclimation at the November meeting. Take time to thank your board members for the time they put into these volunteer positions.

I attended my first 3-day workshop given by Carl Purcell in October and it was great. If you are like me and have never attended one of our workshops, think about doing so. It was very education for me as Carl had us do two landscapes and several exercises that really helped me in my watercolor development. And I did a flower arrangement, the first for me. It was not good! The 20 or so attendees shared advice and comments that really helped me. So, if you have never attended a 3-day workshop, think about looking into going to one. I first thought three days, that is a lot of time, but it went fast. Carl was a great teacher with a lot of patience and loads of talent. We have very good workshops with very talented artists that have national expertise. The artists that teach the workshops also jury our membership shows for fall and spring. Look for our spring workshop in your newsletter and please take time out to enter your work in our shows.

This has been a successful year for your association. We are financially strong and continue to grow our membership. If you know a friend or someone you think would enjoy our watercolor group, bring them to a meeting to share in our watercolor experience.

Remember, take time out of your busy life to help your association. VOLUNTEER! Happy Holidays.

Ron Peters
President
Arizona Watercolor Association
Keep exploring and creating with water media.

Don't forget to pick up your 65th Yearbooks!

Claim yours at the October and November meetings. If you need to make alternative arrangements, call Ron Peters at 602-309-3524.

Next Meeting

Our Programs start at 4 pm.
Social Time at 3:30 pm.

Next Program: **Thursday November 12.**

At the AAG Building- In Person - 4:00pm

The program is a demo by Agustin Vargas

Exhibition News

Award Reception is at Surprise City Hall

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

AWA's Award Reception is less than a month away. Hope you will join us along with your friends and families to celebrate this beautiful show on Tuesday, November 10th from 3 to 5 p.m.

Snacks will be provided.

Surprise City Hall is located at 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza in Surprise and open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed on government holidays). The phone number is 623-222-1000.

The show was juried by Carl Purcell and 40 of our member artists are represented.

In 2027 we are scheduled to be at the Holland Gallery for our Spring Exhibition and Fountain Hills Community Center for our Fall Exhibition. Further details will be provided in the prospectuses for those shows.

Thank you to Sandy Martin and Mary Beth Cornelius for volunteering to help with the reception.

Artist-to-Artist

HINTS AND HACKS

Editor's note: We are grateful that Donna England and Dyanne Locati share this information with us today.

Set up a Painting File System

Having just started painting again I only have a few paintings that I feel are successful. As I paint I am getting better at composition, values and patterns.

Since I'm painting on a regular basis I think a picture on a page of paper with the information, which is my current system, does not work.

I asked an accomplished artist, who enters many exhibitions, what they use. They gave me the outline of what system they use for tracking their paintings.

A spreadsheet that has the following columns of information that keeps track of each painting: Painting Name, Date Painting Finished, Size (without mat), Cost, Show Entered, Deadline Date to Enter, Accepted or Denied and Sold. A new column added or one can be deleted to the artists needs.

Another helpful tip is a separate sheet containing the exhibition name and information along with the exhibition dates; then add a list of my paintings that might be a good fit for this particular exhibition. This is the hardest part; choosing the painting for a show.

Editor's note: I have no idea where some of my paintings are located! I loaned some to a meeting hall, stored some in a storage locker, some are in my studio, and the rest are divided between our homes in Arizona and Colorado. I will be creating a spreadsheet and am happy to share it with others.

Scholarship News

About our New Scholarship Chair

By Dyanne Locati and Cyndie Peterson
Scholarship Chairs

Cynthia Peterson is a contemporary realist whose roots are in a classical tradition. “I cannot remember a time that I did not draw” she says. “When I was little, my mother took me to the Phoenix Art Museum and I remember one painting that made such an impression on me that I tried to draw it from memory when I came home. Years later I would learn that it was Joseph Stella’s ‘Flowers, Italy’ that intrigued me so much.” Her father, a photographer, brought home books of old master still life paintings, starting a lifelong interest in the use of still life as subject and the variety of painting techniques. Ms Peterson began formal studies in art at college where she studied graphic design and painting. She began painting in egg tempera, then oil, forming a great interest in old master painting methods and taking workshops in mixed technique in Austria. Later, a class during graduate school at Arizona State University introduced her to contemporary realists and directions in watercolor. She changed her focus and specialized in watercolor. Today she is a prolific artist in a variety of media such as oil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal.

Cynthia Peterson has exhibited in many solo and national exhibitions including the Rocky Mountain National and Colored Pencil Society International exhibitions. Ms. Peterson has received awards from the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor USA, American Watercolor Society and more. Her artwork has been published in Watercolor Magic, The Best of Watercolor, The Best of Colored Pencil and Artist’s Magazine. She was profiled with her watercolor paintings in the Biltmore Magazine, was part of the Mind of the Artist lecture series for West Valley Art Museum and featured in Artists to Watch in Southwest Art magazine. She holds a BFA degree from Northern Arizona University, and a MFA from Arizona State University.

Signature Status Deadline

All who are eligible for Signature, Silver or Gold status, please send an e-mail with your name, a list of the shows (spring/fall and year) and the title of each painting to Honor Society Chair, Christine Oliver, at crorto1@gmail.com by noon on December 11, 2026. Certificates will be awarded at the January program, January 14,2027. Please refer to the bylaws for a detailed explanation of the point system and applying.

Keep your juried certificates for your records; these are not required when you send in your submissions. For more detailed information, refer to the AWA Bylaws posted on the website: https://azwatercolor.com

Thank you,

Christine Oliver



Pink Oleander by Cynthia Peterson

WFWS #52 is in Newberg, Oregon

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies will host the 52nd Annual Exhibition in OREGON in 2027! As an AWA member, you are automatically qualified to enter this show. Time to get those brushes wet!

Prospectus and information is on the website: wfws.org Please read it carefully as there are many changes this year!



Exhibition Dates: JUNE 4 – JULY 30, 2027 Chehalem Center

Key Deadlines

Jan 1, 2027 – ArtCall Entries Open.

Mar 1, 2027 – ArtCall Entry Deadline.

Mar 30, 2027 – Jury Results Released via ArtCall.

Apr 18, 2027 – Paintings Due to Delegates.

July 29, 2027 – WFWS 52 Show Closes

Aug 2, 2027 – Paintings shipped back to artists.

Events

Jun 7–9, 2027 – Kathleen Giles Workshop at Chehalem Cultural Center

Jun 5, 2027 | 6–8 PM – Awards Dinner, Chehalem Cultural Center

Jun 1, 2027 – Exhibit Opening Reception @ Chehalem Cultural Center

For questions or help please contact AWA society's WFWS delegates,
David Amsellem damsell@mindspring.com
or Tanya Lemma tanyalemma@gmail.com

Juror Workshop News

Highlights From the Fall Juror Workshop

By Marion Droge

A BIG thank you to our October juror, Carl Purcell, who traveled from Utah to share his talent and expertise with AWA!

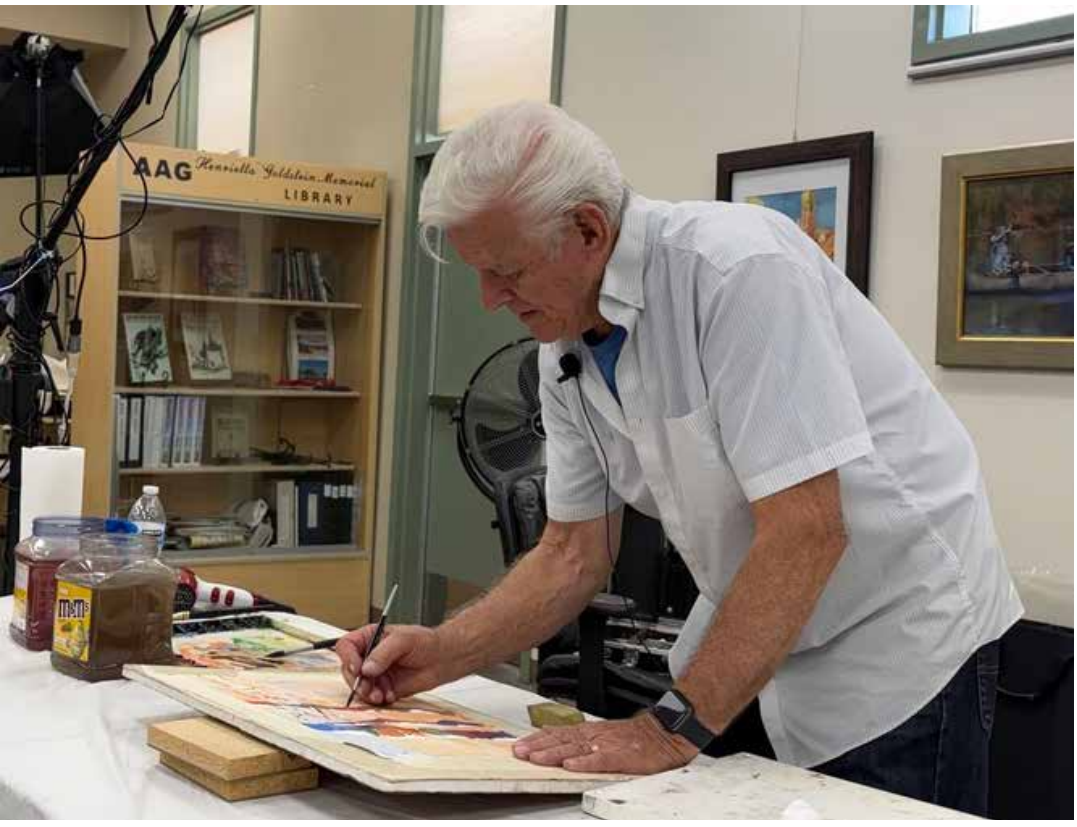
Carl presented a wonderful demonstration at our October members' meeting, which was recorded and is now available for viewing on the AWA website.

Carl's three-day workshop was thoughtfully paced, engaging, and challenging for all who participated. We had the opportunity to learn firsthand how he approaches a subject, thoughtfully modifies reference photos, and develops strong, beautiful value patterns in his paintings.

Throughout the workshop, Carl generously shared his knowledge, offering individual guidance, insightful critiques, and helpful suggestions for strengthening compositions.

The three days were filled with learning, inspiration, and plenty of creative challenges. It was a wonderful experience to learn from such a talented artist and dedicated teacher.

Thank you, Carl, for an inspiring and memorable visit!



Upcoming 2027 Juror Workshops

Look for enrollment for our 2027 Juror workshops soon…

Our Juror Spring 2027 will be **Michelle Nixon**. April 8, 9 & 10.

https://mmnixon.com/

And in the Fall 2027

Kathleen Giles (Portraiture) October 14, 15 & 16.

https://www.kgilesstudio.com/

(continued next page)



More demos and work by Carl Purcell





Member Workshop News

Member Workshops for Spring 2027

By Karen Gray
AWA Member Workshop Chair

The member workshop opportunities for Spring 2027 are available on the AWA website. Look forward to some exciting new watercolor workshops. In January, Kim Johnson Nechtman will be doing a workshop about painting people in places. Then in February, John Erwin will be conducting a workshop using watercolor and ink with an architectural flare. Finally in March, Marion Droge will be teaching how to paint pet portraits.

The January workshop, with Kim Johnson Nechtman as the artist instructor, will feature painting people in natural everyday settings. While Kim is famous for her portraits of people and animals, her current focus is capturing people as they work and relax in the environment. She is a master watercolor artist who enjoys using vibrant colors and thoughtful compositions.

In February, John Erwin will conduct his workshop using both watercolor and ink to illustrate architectural subjects. John is a popular local artist who mixes humor and artistic skill to create a fun learning experience and creative atmosphere.

Lastly, the March workshop with Marion Droge will demonstrate effective methods to paint our pets. Learn how to show the variety of colors in the fur of cats or dogs, and also how to capture the animal's personality. Maybe your favorite pet is a bird. Fluffy fur or feathers may be flying on our paintings.

You can find the registration opportunity for all workshops on the AWA website under Member Workshops. You will be able to complete the registration conveniently online with your credit card.



Red Bicycle by Kim Johnson Nechtman



Just Another Day by Kim Johnson Nechtman

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Webmaster Assistant: David Amsellem

Honor Society: Christine Oliver

Honoree: Sherry Kimmel

Newsletter Editor/Publisher/Publicity: Janice Wittwer

Social Media: Mona Houle

Welcome New Members

Cindy Kovack

Deborah Babin

Did you know that as a member of AWA, you are automatically a member of the Arizona Art Alliance? This group has a wealth of information for artists, including artist opportunities, inspirational stories, and professional tips for artists! Be sure to sign up for their newsletter when you browse the wealth of information at https://azartalliance.com/